



Northern Great Plains Network

Inventory and Monitoring Monthly Report

August 2005



Vital Signs Meeting: Preparations for the September 14-15th Vital Signs selection workshop are almost complete. The I&M Program is reimbursing travel for 2 participants from each park to attend the workshop (more than 2 from a park are welcomed; however, only 2 will be reimbursed). Park personnel should come to the workshop with a clear idea of what is important to the park in terms of monitoring. They should also have an idea as to what is best monitored by the I&M Program and what can be monitored in house. As became clear at the park scoping meetings, many parks have a history of initiating long-term monitoring projects that ultimately fizzled out due to changing personnel, new park priorities, or lack of funds. Where continuity is important, monitoring may be most assured by having it conducted by the I&M Program. The goals of the workshop are to have outside experts and partners rate potential Vital Signs on: 1) ecological significance, 2) feasibility, and 3) importance to partners. Their scores will be combined with park scores to develop a list of ranked scores. The non-Network reviewers at the workshop are:

Plant Group

Amy Symstad (Lead)	Plants – USGS- Northern Prairie Wildlife Res. Center
Brad Welch	Exotic Plants – NPS-WASO
Alan Knapp	Plants – Colorado State U. and Long-Term Ecol. Research
Jack Butler	Plants – Forest Service-Rocky Mountain Research Station
Cody Wienk	Plants – NPS Fire Effects
Audrey Gable	Fungi – Black Hills State U.
George Jones	Plants – Wyoming Natural Diversity Database
Dan Milchunas	Grazing – Colorado State U. and Long-Term Ecol. Res. (retired)
Deanna Reyher	Plants/Soils – Black Hills National Forest
Mike Story	Remote Sensing – NPS-WASO
Larry Strong	Remote Sensing – USGS-Northern Prairie Wildlife Res. Center
Brad Reed	Remote Sensing – USGS-EROS
Jack Norland	Remote Sensing – U. of North Dakota
Gerry Steinauer	Plants – Nebraska Game Parks Commission
Peter Stahl	Soils – U. of Wyoming
Mike Bynum	Plants – NPS-Northern Great Plains I&M Program

Wildlife Group

Marcia Wilson (Lead)	Wildlife – NPS-Northern Great Plains I&M Program
Kelly Hutton	Birds – Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory
David Hanni	Birds – Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory
Cheryl Schmidt	Mammals
Brian Smith	Herps - Black Hills State U.
Josh Millspaugh	Mammals/Birds – U. of Missouri
Doug Backlund	Biodiversity – South Dakota Game, Fish, and Parks
Patrick Isakson	Wildlife – North Dakota Game and Fish
Dan Svingen	Wildlife – Forest Service – Dakota Grasslands
Bob Gitzen	Wildlife – U. of Missouri
Cara Staab	Wild/GIS – Black Hills National Forest
Paul Johnson	Insects – South Dakota State U.
Fred Lindsey	Wildlife – U. of Wyoming
Blake Hossack	Amphibians – USGS-Biological Resources Divisions

Water Group

Nels Troelstrup (Lead)	Water Quality – South Dakota State U.
Roy Irwin	Water Quality – NPS-WRD
Mike Ell	Water Quality – North Dakota Dept. of Health
Mike Callam	Water Quality – Nebraska
Tony Olsen	Water Quality – U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Sue Braumiller	Groundwater – NPS-IMR
Gene Stueven	Water Quality – South Dakota Dept. of Natural Resources
Jeff Shearer	Aquatic biodiversity – South Dakota Game, Fish, and Parks
Dan Driscoll	Water – USGS-Water Resources
Jill Rust	Water Quality – South Dakota State U.
Chris Hoagstrom	Fish – South Dakota State U.
Steve Hirtzel	Fish – Black Hills National Forest
Jim Stone	Water – South Dakota School Mines & Technology
P.V. Sundareshwar	Biogeochemistry – South Dakota School Mines & Technology
Carmen Thomson	Water – NPS-MWR
Toney Ott	Water – U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Air and Geology Group

Joel Brumm (Lead)	GIS – NPS-Northern Great Plains I&M Program
David Pohlman	Air Quality – NPS-MWR
Ron Kerbo	Caves – NPS-WASO
Ellen Porter	Air Quality – NPS-WASO
Lisa Norby	Geology – NPS-WASO
Steve Fancy	Monitoring Generalist - NPS-WASO
Frank Turina	Sounds – NPS-WASO
Dan Foster	Night Sky – NPS-Wind Cave NP

Vouchers: On August 9 Dan Licht visited the Bell Museum at the U. of Minnesota to check on the status of the biological specimens deposited there. The fish specimens have all been entered into the museum system and the I&M Program has received the catalogue information. Most of the mammal specimens have been curated and entered into the system as well. It's anticipated that the remaining mammals should be completed in the next few months. Due to uncertainty about shrew taxonomy, Dr. Schmidt did not attempt to differentiate *Sorex haydenii* from *Sorex cinereus*; for the same reason the museum has not attempted to differentiate. Ongoing taxonomic studies may clarify this murky mammal issue. The small number of other specimens (e.g., birds) have not yet been processed. It is anticipated that in the next few months all specimens will be processed and entered into the museum catalogue. At that time the information will be distributed to the parks so they can update their records (e.g., ANCS+).